

In preparing to protect this country, the administration should not give the Department of Defense authority to put at risk the environment that Americans cherish and the clean and healthy communities it demands. As the largest owner of infrastructure in the world, and sadly, as the biggest polluter, the Department of Defense should be setting the best example, not getting permission from Congress to cut corners on the protection of the environment and the health of our community. We should be working together in these troubled times to make our community healthy, safe, and economically secure.

TAX CUTS AFFECT NEW JERSEY PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this week, probably tomorrow and Thursday, we will probably have a final vote Thursday on the Republican budget resolution in the House; and I wanted to speak to that resolution today because I think it really sets a terrible precedent for where we are going in terms of spending programs, tax cuts, as well as the economy in general, which as we all know has experienced a major downturn in the last year or so.

My major point is this, that essentially what the President is doing, what the Republicans are doing in this budget is to give huge tax cuts, primarily to wealthy Americans and to corporate interests. As a result of that, there will be a major slash of programs that are important to the average American and also a major increase in the deficit. A few years ago under President Clinton we actually had a surplus with the budget. We were paying down our debt. We were paying back the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Now the opposite is happening.

With this Republican budget, which the President essentially supports, we are building huge deficits once again. We are borrowing from the Social Security trust fund. We are borrowing from the Medicare trust fund. And those two retirement security programs, basically Social Security and Medicare, the day when they will go broke or will run out of funds will come closer and closer because of the drain on those trust funds and their resources.

But, Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to see that over the weekend, in fact Sunday, in the New York Times there was an editorial that basically says how I feel with regard to the Republican budget and gives some information of which I would like to read certain sections.

It is entitled, "How Tax Cuts Trickle Down." In the beginning it says, Mr.

Speaker, "In a sorry effort to protect President Bush's tax cut mania, the Republican leaders of Congress have unveiled proposals for slashing the most basic government programs for years to come. With rationalizations running from tragic to ludicrous, House budgeteers envision cuts of \$470 billion in Medicare, Medicaid, education, child care and other vital programs, from transportation to health care, the environment, to science research." And it goes on. And I will go back and give other sections of it, Mr. Speaker.

But I just wanted to give Members an idea of how these Republican cuts in the budget would specifically affect my State of New Jersey. And keep in mind that the only reason these cuts are being made is to pay for tax cuts to wealthy Americans and corporate interests.

An analysis of the President's budget shows drastic cuts in critical services in New Jersey; and the terrifying fact is that the House Republican budget approved last week in the committee, which we will be voting on tomorrow or Thursday, is even worse than the President's budget in this respect in what it slashes.

In New Jersey, the President's budget cuts \$9.9 million for after-school programs leaving 14,110 children without after-school services through the 21st Century Community Learning Center's program. The President's budget cuts \$1.8 million in teacher-quality funding for New Jersey and cuts funds nationally for grants to improve teacher quality by \$80 million.

Now this is the President who has said that no child should be left behind. The President's budget cuts more than \$27 million in Federal highway funding for New Jersey. The President's budget slashes clean water funding for New Jersey by more than \$20 million this year.

This is so important to my district because my district is primarily along the shore, along the ocean, the Raritan Bay and the Raritan River; and we are dependent on this Federal funding to keep our waters clean and for sewage treatment.

The President's budget cuts more than \$3 million in low-income home energy assistance for New Jerseyans and the President's budget cuts more than \$4 million in community service block grants which provide local organizations the funds to help reduce poverty, revitalize low-income communities, and provide families with the help they need to become fully self-sufficient.

Now, I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker; but I do not want to keep stressing what is happening in my home State, but I have to say that this is happening all over the country.

Now, why are we doing this? Well, the President says it is because of tax cuts. And if I could go back to the New York Times, they say, "The estimated shortfall," this is the deficit now, "of \$2.7 trillion could have been an \$890 bil-

lion surplus but for the Bush proposal, according to the Congressional Budget Office."

So the fact of the matter is, the reason we will have a deficit because of the President's budget is because of tax cuts. The next \$1.4 trillion cut geared to the affluent will average \$80,000 a year for millionaires. So what we are seeing, Mr. Speaker, is primarily we are going into deficit and slashing these programs to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. The President has suggested otherwise, but there is another New York Times article that gives the specifics and I just wanted to read it to you.

It says, "The average tax cut is over \$1,000," this is what the President is saying, "because a few rich taxpayers would get such large reductions." For example, for households with incomes over \$200,000, the average tax cut is \$12,000; but if you are making less money, you will get about \$300.

HONORING FRANCISCO JAVIER BLANCO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to recognize Mr. Francisco Javier Blanco, a man whose commitment and service to Puerto Rico and the environment has resulted in countless achievements and a legacy that will last for generations.

Mr. Blanco recently retired as director of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico. During his more than 30 years of dedicated service, Mr. Blanco was responsible for guiding the conservation trust through its formation stage and into the impressive organization that exists today.

The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico, which was created in 1968 through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Interior Department and the Commonwealth Government, is now recognized as a leader among the Nation's land trusts in the area of environmental conservation and preservation.

Under Mr. Blanco's direction, the trust has protected 17,000 acres of land as reserves of incalculable natural, aesthetic, and cultural value. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Blanco, the trust continues to make significant contributions to protect Puerto Rico's environment and important history. The efforts and commitment of Mr. Blanco have left a legacy for Puerto Rico to enjoy for generations to come, and for that we are grateful.

As Resident Commissioner, I am building upon the strong conservation and historic preservation efforts of Mr. Blanco.

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The partnership between the Trust, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and